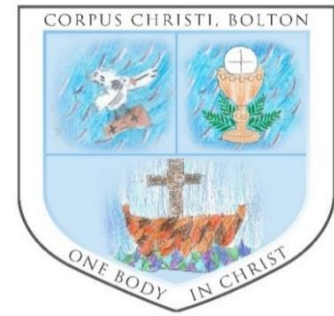


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

St John, the Evangelist, Bromley Cross, St Columba's, Tonge Moor
and St Brendan's, Harwood

25 December 2022

The Nativity of the Lord



There are four sets of readings for the feast of Christmas and, if read in sequence, they create a patchwork of scripture on which we can place the emotions which we experience at this most holy time of our year. Let us look at the four Gospel passages and immerse ourselves into this most special of days.

The Gospel for the Vigil Mass has two quite separate themes, both of which remind us that the birth of Christ cannot be celebrated as an event outside of human experience. Matthew's Gospel begins with a list of the ancestors of Our Lord; through this list we see that we all belong to the same human family which is made up of a great variety of saints and sinners. Matthew tells the nativity story through the eyes of Joseph; he reminds us of the great humanity of this man who took on the role of father to the Son of God. It is almost impossible to imagine the enormity of the task that Joseph accepted with such humility.

At Midnight we have the Gospel of Luke; this is the familiar story of the Inn and the Stable. The Son of God, laid in a feeding trough for the animals of the field; each of us may have had somewhere warm to be born but not Christ. The passage reminds us that Jesus is indeed Lord of All; He can relate through His birth with the humblest of those born into our world. We hear, once again, the songs of the angels and the call to the shepherds to come and worship. The Dawn Mass continues Luke's story as the shepherds come before their king with their stories of heavenly song and bright shining stars. This is Mary's story as she listens in wonder to the way the news of her baby's birth has been given to the waiting world.

Finally, with the Day Mass, we have John speaking of the Light that has come into our world through the birth of a tiny baby. This passage reminds us that God the Son was there at the beginning of the World and is part of the creation story. This is our story: He is the Word by which we live, die and rise to eternal life, that He is our All in All, the light that turns our dark corners into bright tomorrows, full of grace and love. *David Frank*

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1
Divine Office Week 1

Sunday 25 December

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Monday 26 December - St Stephen

10am Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 27 December - St John the Evangelist

10am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 28 December - The Holy Innocents

10am Requiem Mass for Winifred Dawson (SJ)

Thursday 29 December - St Thomas of Canterbury

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 30 December - The Holy Family

No Mass Today

Saturday 31 December

10am Mass (SJ)

5pm Mass (SB)

Sunday 1 January 2023 - Mary Holy Mother of God

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)



Thank you to all volunteers for your help during the last year and for preparing the churches for the Christmas season. Thank you for all your cards gifts and best wishes. I would like to wish all parishioners, and your families, a very happy, Holy and peaceful Christmas time. *God Bless, Fr Alf*

Parish Contact Details

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Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk



We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends: Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Pat Margiotta, Frances Skemp, Kathleen Banks, Edwin Rankin, Philip Anderson, Vincent Hopkinson, Irene Clappison, Dorothy Killoran, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Josephine Ward, Wynn & Michael Latham, Agnes Kirby, Irene Sheridan, Thomas Baker, Kathryn Browning, Rachel Edge, Fr Leo Heakin, Peter Hayler, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Mary Fitzgerald, Helen Fraser, Peter Reilly, Mary Airey, Sheila Derbyshire

Lately Dead: Anthony Smith, Ann Marie Neagle, Martha Winifred (Win) Dawson

Anniversaries: Roy Shepherd, Sheila Smith, Peter McGowan, Audrey Healey, Roy Connolly, Sheila Hayes, Oswald Kenyon, Dorothy Mary Kirton, Anna Mikolajewski

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Roy Shepherd, Sheila Smith, Audrey Healey, Roy Connolly, Sheila Hayes, Peter McGowan, Winifred & Michael Latham (Diamond Wedding), Anthony Smith, Oswald Kenyon, Dorothy Mary Kirton, Sheila Smith. Anna Mikolajewski

Christmas Remembrances: Deceased Members of the Carter & Mathen Families, The Cambridge, Carter & Atkinson families, The Hayes & Heyes families, Rose & Vin Heron, Carey Family, Kerlin family, Barrett family, Margaret Gibson, Barbara Grimes & Grimes family (Eire), Mark O'Brien,

During Advent and Christmastide, we pray for: Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

We continue to pray for peace and an end to the conflict in Ukraine

Hope In The Future: Let us pray for the parish of Our Lady of Grace, Prestwich, for Fr Philip Caldwell, their parish priest, Mgr John Allen, for their parish primary school, for the chaplaincy to Prestwich Hospital, and the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion. May the Child of Mary pour out his grace on the parish and on all whom they serve

Financial Support: We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially. Thank you

Cheques: Please make all cheques payable to **Corpus Christi**.

Standing Order: Please contact us if you would like to set up a direct payment. *Thank you*

Parish Office: From 4 January, I will be working new hours:- Wednesday and Thursday 8.30am-4pm. As some of you may know, we had a problem with our email last week which meant the newsletter couldn't be circulated. This is still being rectified. The newsletter is available via our parish website www.office@sbsj.org.uk. With best wishes for a happy and Holy Christmas, Catherine.

Readers for 31 December/1 January 2023		
5pm(SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am(SB)
S Mikolajewski	A Gracie	F Doloroso

200 Club Winners for December:

£75 J Summerton

£50 A Gracie

£25 M Mariner

1 January 2023
Mary Holy Mother of God

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1

Divine Office Week 1

Readings: Page 155

Sunday 1 January

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Monday 2 January - Ss Basil and Gregory Nazianzen

10am Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 3 January

10am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 4 January

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

We welcome Carmine Rea (Student for the Priesthood)

Thursday 5 January

7.30pm Vigil Mass for the Epiphany (SB)

Friday 6 January - The Epiphany - Holy day of Obligation

9.30am Mass (SJ) - followed by SVP Coffee Morning

2pm School Mass (SC)

Saturday 7 January

11am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

5pm Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Sunday 8 January - The Baptism of The Lord

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy

11am Mass (SB)

Readers for 7/8 January 2023

5pm (SB) C Molyneux

9.30am (SJ) A Grundy

11am (SB) F Evans

Gaelic Coffee: Thank you to all who joined us for Gaelic Coffee last Sunday. The amount raised was £90.29 which will be given the SVP.

Confirmations 2023: Please note, the date for the Sacrament of Confirmation has changed. It will now be on Thursday 13 July 2023, 6.30pm at Thornleigh.

Parish Trip to the Holy Land: Monday 6 November-Monday 13 November 2023. Booking forms will be available the first week in January.

This Newsletter is sponsored by
HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE
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